

Remarks/Arguments

Applicants have filed concurrently herewith an Information Disclosure Statement.

The Examiner has rejected applicants' claims 33, 47-53, 55-63 and 65-75 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Baker, et al. (US 5,428,730) patent in view of the Kraslavsky, et al. (US 5,537,626) patent. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As stated in applicants' previous response, applicants' independent claim 33 recites a control device for controlling a network device connected to a network in which the control device includes a communication interface adapted to receive a description file from the network device via the network, the description file including description information for a control panel of the network device, and a controller adapted to automatically activate the description file after the description file is received from the network device. Applicants' independent method claim 56 recites like features.

Applicants' independent claim 66 recites a control device for controlling a network device connected to a network in which a communication interface is adapted to receive a description file from the network device via the network, the description file including description information for a control panel of the network device, and in which a controller is adapted to control a first process that displays the control panel if a user selects an icon representing the network device, and to control a second process that transmits a message relating to a graphical element on the control panel to the network device if the user operates the graphical element. Independent method claim 67 recites similar features. Such constructions are not believed to be taught or suggested by the cited art.

In particular, with respect to claims 33 and 56, the cited Baker, et al. and Kraslavsky, et al. patents do not teach or suggest automatically activating a description file after the

description file is received from a network device over a network. Nowhere in the Examiner's discussion of the operation of the Baker, et al. patent is there taught automatic activation based on a description file received over a network from a network device. Likewise, the Kraslavsky, et al. patent fails in this regard. Applicants' independent claims 33 and 56, and their respective dependent claims, thus patentably distinguish over the Baker, et al. and Kraslavsky, et al. patents.

Moreover, the Examiner has not pointed out where in the cited patents there is a teaching or suggestion of a description file being received from a network device via a network, and a controller being adapted to control a first process that displays the control panel if a user selects an icon representing the network device, and to control a second process that transmits a message relating to a graphical element on the control panel to the network device if the user operates the graphical element. Applicants' independent claims 66 and 67, and their respective dependent claims, all of which recite such features, thus patentably distinguish over the Baker, et al. and Kraslavsky, et al. patents.

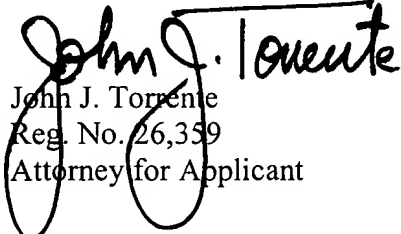
Applicants note also that applicants plan to file further arguments in a Supplemental Response shortly.

In view of the above, it is submitted that applicants' claims patentably distinguish over the cited art of record. Accordingly, reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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